



INTERNATIONAL SISTER CITIES OF ROCHESTER NEWS

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SPRING 2011

DAINAVA ENSEMBLE OF ALYTUS VISITS

On Saturday, May 14, the *Dainava Folk Art Ensemble* from Alytus, Lithuania, marched in the Lilac Festival parade with the members of the Alytus-Rochester Sister Cities Committee, the Rochester Lithuanian Community, and ISCOR.

Later that evening, the ensemble, dressed in folk garb, gave a performance of traditional Lithuanian music and dance before an enthusiastic audience at the Hochstein School of Music and Dance. Following the performance, a reception was held



Dainava Ensemble of Alytus at Hochstein School. Photo: Erin Marozas

in honor of the Dainava Ensemble at Max at High Falls with many dignitaries attending.

The Dainava Folk Art Ensemble was founded more than 30 years ago in Alytus, Lithuania. The group consists of about 150 members. About 30 of the members were in Rochester. The ensemble was founded to preserve Lithuanian folk art and traditions. Dainava's musicians not only play conventional instruments but also traditional Lithuanian

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VISITS TO WÜRZBURG

On November 2, 2010, Lee Beaulac, Keith Scholes, and Martin DeVinney of Pathstone, a community and economic development corporation, briefly visited Würzburg staff Klaus Walther and Judith Roesch. They were interested in strategies pursued in Würzburg in supporting the growth of small and micro-business, particularly for encouraging access to credit, capital, training and technical assistance. They were greeted by Mayor Marion Schaefer-Blake. The

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Marty DeVinney with Klaus Walther. Photo, Keith Scholes

LIBRARY EXHIBITS

Fairport Public Library. During the month of March, ISCOR had a lovely exposition of cultural artifacts and information, thanks to an invitation from Margaret Pilaroscia of the Fairport Public Library. Each of our twelve Sister Cities was represented by an item from that region with flags, history and background of the "twinings" as well. Our hopes are that by creating public awareness of our citizen-driven global program, we can ignite curiosity and

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Margaret Pilaroscia, Fairport Library, and Martha O'Connor



From the President's Desk

As you read this issue of the ISCOR News you will see that the volunteers who initi-



ate and carry out the activities of our sister cities program have been busy these past several months! I'm sure that you'll share my appreciation for all they do and how important it is to our community.

Congratulations, Thomas S. Richards, on your election to Mayor of Rochester. We welcome you as Honorary Chairman of ISCOR. We know that we can count on your support of our efforts to benefit our community and those of our sister cities.

We note with sadness the passing of important past leaders of our program: Jean Cappellino, Lemoyne Bearden, Fred Ingalls. The program we are so dedicated to today owes so much to their efforts.

We were honored to be joined by Lithuanian's premier folk arts ensemble, Dainava, as they marched with the ISCOR unit in the Lilac Parade. We enjoyed their performance at the Hochstein School on May 14th.

Community partnerships enhance our ability to contribute to our local and sister communities. I commend Patti Uttaro, Martha O'Connor, Ray Griswold, Relton Roland, Clyde Forbes, Carrie Baker Scott and many others for developing partnerships with our libraries, schools, Rotary International, local fire departments, etc..

This expansion of ISCOR's community outreach promises many possibilities that call for volunteers and—surprise!—fund raising. You'll be hearing from us!

Thank you to Louise Schoen-Simon, New York State Coordinator for Sister Cities International, for organizing the New York State Sister Cities Coalition Conference for September 24, 2011. Our last statewide conference was in 1993. It's time for another!

More than 50 years after its start, Rochester's sister cities program remains vital and contributing to our community and those of our partners abroad.

Keep up the good work!!!

Carollee A. Conkley

In Memoriam, Jean Cappellino



Asked by Frank Lamb to represent the Rochester City School District on the ISCOR Board in 1972, Jean Cappellino contributed to the success of ISCOR in more way than we can count for thirty years. An active supporter of the Caltanissetta and Bamako committees, she hosted visitors, mentored foreign as well as local students, translated communications, and presented the culture of our sister cities throughout our community. Many of us remember having tea and gentle conversation at her house on Netherton Road, where she taught us grace and graciousness by her quiet example

She established this newsletter as its first editor and set the standard for her successors. As she did in so many ways in our community. Thank you, Jean! —MDL

CONFERENCES

New York State Sister Cities Coalition Conference, Sept. 24, 2011 Join us on September 24, 2011 for a day of discussions and presentations with government representatives, educators, business people, volunteers, Sister City Associations and SCI staff. The event will take place at the Buffalo Niagara Garden Inn (directly across from the Buffalo Niagara International Airport) in Cheektowaga from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. You can find program and registration information at <http://www.nystatesistercities.com/>

The Rochester Summit on Global Citizen Diplomacy, The Rochester Summit on Global Citizen Diplomacy, organized by the Rochester International Council and co-sponsored by ISCOR, was held on April 7, 2011. Alma Candelaria, Director, Office of International Visitors, U.S. Department of State, discussed the value of international exchange programs and the importance of understanding our responsibility as global citizen diplomats. Keynote speaker Martin Babinec, noted Silicon Valley entrepreneur and Founder /Chairman of Upstate Venture Connect spoke about "Mobilizing Entrepreneurs as Citizen Diplomats." Attendees then selected two of the six concurrent sessions on international assignments, student exchanges, social media, and exporting. The City of Rochester and Monroe County proclaimed April 7, 2011, as CITIZEN DIPLOMACY DAY. Submitted by Josephine M. Perini, Chair, Rochester Summit on Global Citizen Diplomacy

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RENNES, FRANCE 1958

The Rennes-Rochester Sister City Committee has been hard at work on several fronts:

Le Triangle Centre de Danse has invited Garth Fagan Dance to perform in Rennes and we are pursuing a grant to support a multi-sister city tour.

In May 2011, wheelchair basketball players from Rennes, France, will come to Rochester to play in the Rochester Wheels International Wheelchair Basketball Tournament. Our committee is meeting regularly with Sportsnet, a division of Rochester Rehabilitation, to bring this to fruition. Six teams from Canada, France and the US will participate and we are inviting teams from our sister cities to participate.

Nearly forty students visited Rennes partner schools in March and April. Groups traveled separately from Aquinas Academy, East Irondequoit and Marcus Whitman high schools, and Finger Lakes Community College.

March 2011 I participated in the Foire Internationale in Rennes, France, working with Eric Beaty, chairman of the Rochester-Rennes sister cities committee. After nearly one week of me getting used to understanding and speaking French fluently again, Eric and I were operating as a team at the fair. I worked with many people throughout the week at the fair, all involved in their Rennes-Rochester sister-city committee, the Institut Franco-American or the Maison Internationale.

TV Rennes is interested in developing a working relationship with a television station in Rochester. We found many, many people cognizant that Rochester had a sister-city relationship with Rennes and that they or their friends had been involved in exchanges at the high-school or college level. They asked about group trips to Rochester and house exchanges. We identified several tourism opportunities that I will pursue with VisitRochester. Participation in the Foire afforded many other opportunities for discussions with a variety of people about future educational, tourism, and cultural exchanges. I look forward to expanding our participation next year.

We invite you to take part in its development and follow-through. Feel free to give me a call at 264-0232 to get more information.

Ray Griswold, Interim President



WÜRZBURG, GERMANY 1964

(Continued from page 1, Visits)

team presented their findings to WRSCC and ISCOR volunteers and City of Rochester staff in a lunch-time meeting at their East Avenue offices.

In March 2011, the *Arbeitsgemeinschaft Würzburger Frauen & Frauenorganisationen* (Association of Würzburg Women & Women's Organizations) sponsored a conference titled: "Same Rights, Same Chances, Same Opportunities?" The conference commemorated the centennial anniversary of International Women's Day. In 1908, more than one million women and men gathered in Copenhagen to advocate for the right of women to work, vote, be educated, and hold public office. It was this event, one hundred years late, that women from Würzburg's sister cities delegations gathered to celebrate.

Rochester was well-represented. Carol Anne Strawbridge, Associate Pastor of Gates Presbyterian Church; M. Kay Michelinie, Pastor of Christ Clarion Presbyterian Church; and Margaret Corbin, Director of Partners in Health and Vice President of Programs for UNAR represented Rochester. This group of women, all with careers in fields traditionally considered male-oriented, brought valuable insights from their experiences to their presentation and participation in discussion groups.

The three-day conference, held at the *Akademie Frankenkarte*, atop the Nikolausberg overlooking the city, included a greeting from Lord Mayor Georg Rosenthal, a series of lectures, presentations by delegations, and discussion groups focusing on topics ranging from domestic issues, women's entrepreneurship and networking, to international conflicts. Rev. Strawbridge commented that, "The experience confirmed my belief that cross cultural partnerships are essential for positive globalization. We can learn from each other and thus journey into the twenty-first century with a shared concern for peace and justice."

The Rochester-Würzburg Sister Cities Committee is very pleased to have been represented by such an outstanding team and looks forward to an early summer meeting, at which time we will receive a more detailed report.

Submitted by Dean Ekberg

MozartFest 2011.

Edie Fuchs, Chair of the WRSCC, and Ed Hall, President and

(Continued on page 7, Würzburg)



CALTANISSETTA, ITALY 1965

In recognition of the 45th anniversary of the Caltanissetta-Rochester Sister Cities relationship, Mayor Michele Campisi sent a DVD with his personal greetings and good wishes to the people of Rochester.

In a touching presentation of music and photographs, it reviewed history of the city from which a majority of Rochester's Italian-American community emigrated. It showed historic photos from the period of emigration, illustrating architecture, the environs of the city, and the people. It then showed modern Caltanissetta, its buildings, surrounding countryside, and festivals. Contact Rosalba Pisaturo to arrange a viewing of this special gift, 247-7300.



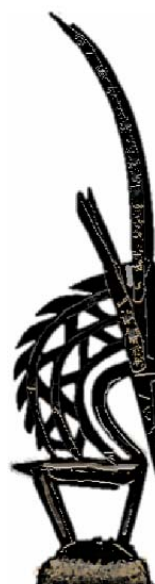
Easter week, main square Caltanissetta. Photo: Gaetano Camilleri



REHOVOT, ISRAEL 1972

The Weizmann Institute of Science, founded in Rehovot, is one of the world's leading multidisciplinary research institutions. Hundreds of scientists, laboratory technicians and research students work on its campus seeking to improve our understanding of nature and our place within it. Groundbreaking medical and technological applications that have emerged from basic research conducted by Weizmann Institute scientists. Prof. Ada Yonath was awarded a Nobel Prize in Chemistry for solving the structure of the ribosome, the cell's protein factory, and revealing its means of action. Her research should speed the development of antibiotic drugs that are more efficient, especially against antibiotic-resistant strains.

From the Institute website at www.weizmann.ac.il.



BAMAKO, MALI 1975

Black History Month Family Day at the Memorial Art Gallery

On Sunday afternoon, February 27th Clyde Forbes and Rachel Adonis participated in this annual community event. They staffed a display table containing brochures, a visual photo exhibit, artwork and other items representing our Bamako Sister City. They answered many questions about Bamako, Mali, and the Rochester Sister Cities Program.

Other informational displays represented the countries of Belize, and Togo (West Africa) and organizations, including Hope for Sudan, Rochester Jamaican Organization and Do the Right Thing Program.

Approximately 1000 people attended the activities during the afternoon; including hands on art activities, dance,



Axum, an Ethiopian student group from the UofR Photo CF

theatrical and musical performances, guided tours and lectures. Participants were given a passport booklet and encouraged to record their art travels by receiving a sticker at each activity.

Participation in this event enabled the Bamako Committee to educate many individuals who were unaware of the Mission of the Sister Cities Program.

Submitted by Clyde Forbes



KRAKÓW, POLAND 1973

School for the Blind. The Krakow School for the Blind, a day and residential high school, was flooded in Spring 2010, losing vital equipment and materials used in academic and vocation training for the students. The Committee is working with the local chapter of the American Council for the Blind and the US Consulate in Kraków to identify useful assistance. English language Braille materials are a current priority. A fund-raising event is being organized for Fall 2011.

Submitted by Michael Leach, 248-7319



WATERFORD, IRELAND 1983

Waterford Mayor Mary Roche led a five-member delegation of economic development and education officials and leaders to Rochester as part of a five-city trade mission in April. The Waterford Rochester Sister Cities Committee and City of Rochester development staff facilitated meetings with Rochester business and development officials. Their visit was capped by a networking reception with high level Rochester business,



Mayor Mary Roche, Waterford (right), with Acting Mayor Carlos Carballada, Barbara and Lt Gov Bob Duffy, Carolee Conklin, Tom and Debbie O'Connell

economic, and education leaders, including Acting Mayor Carlos Carballada, Lt. Gov. Bob Duffy, and St. John Fisher College President Donald Bain. Mayor Roche wrote that "We are confident that the Trade Mission was a great success...and



HAMAMATSU, JAPAN 1996

On March 11, 2011, a very strong earthquake struck Japan. The earthquake created a tsunami that heavily damaged the area of Sendai north of Tokyo. The affects of this event have been felt by much of the country and its residents, even those not living directly in the affected area. This sudden tragedy caused our committee to cancel its upcoming trip to Hamamatsu. But in the midst of this horrific occurrence some good has come.



There have been many local efforts to raise money to assist the victims. We were put in contact with a couple of young boys Nathan and

Charlie Schaff of Pittsford, who put together a spaghetti dinner to raise money to send. The boys did a great job and the event was a big success. Our own committee has been also collecting donations as well. For any of you that supported either of these



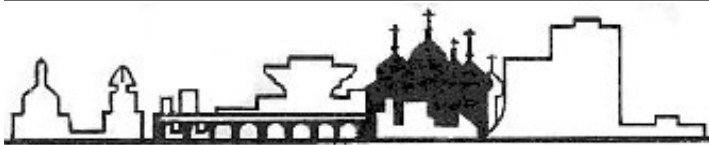
efforts or the programs put on by others individuals or organizations in an effort to help, we thank you.

For information, contact Jonathan Schmidt, 315-8910

that dividends will accrue in time."

Dr. Keiran Byrne, President of Waterford Institute of Technology will be visiting Rochester in May, and deliver the Commencement Address at St. John Fisher College graduation.

*For more information,
contact Tom O'Connell, 872-4507*



VELIKIY NOVGOROD, RUSSIA 1990

Education and Agriculture Exchanges

The Linkages Education Committee recently selected teachers Wendy Lawther (ESOL, East High) and Larry Webber (Social Studies, Webster) to travel to Velikiy Novgorod to conduct a two-week seminar for teachers of English at the NovgorodCenter for Educational Development from June 27- July 8, 2011. The annual event attracts 30 or more Novgorod teachers who provide English language instruction at all grade levels. They improve their knowledge of English as it is spoken in the US and learn more about American history, culture and lifestyle to bring back to their classrooms.

Elena Popovich, the head agricultural scientist of a state-sponsored greenhouse project in Velikiy Novgorod came to Rochester in early May to study greenhouse agriculture, organic farming techniques and to visit local gardens. Ms. Popovich is also the host of a TV gardening show in Novgorod; on her TV show, she discusses the greenhouse project and acts as a TV "master gardener" answering viewer questions about gardening techniques and problems. Her interests include greenhouse cultivation, hydroponic farming and local fruit farms. She also hopes to see the many lilac cultivars grown in Rochester. On Monday, May 16, Ms. Popovich spoke at a public presentation for Linkages members on trends in Russian farming techniques, organic farming in Russia and on the role of the "dacha" garden in Novgorod society.

Submitted by Paul Caccamise



PUERTO PLATA, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC 1997

In November, 2010 our Puerto Plata Rochester Sister Cities Delegation completed its fact finding mission in the City of Puerto Plata. A visit was made to POP Fire Station and the Fire Station in the city of Boca Chica. We contacted, two major Rotary Clubs, schools, and other institutions in Puerto Plata. As a result, the fire departments of both cities have requested assistance from our sister cities program to help them with equipment and training needs. Other requests have been reviewed by our Committee. The POPRSC Committee decided to focus on the following priorities: (1) Firefighter's project to donate surplus fire equipment, (2) CONANI An-



Capt. John Schreiber, Lt. Willie Jackson, with Bomberos de Puerto Plata

nex School Project, and (3) Tourism including business and the cultural communities of Rochester. The CONANI Annex School Project is an initiative of the Dominican Hope Foundation in Lima, New York. Carl and Chris Luft are leading the Annex project and are members of our Sister Cities Committee. We are looking forward to reaching out to our community champions in the Greater Rochester area. For information, contact Relton Roland, 473-5346



XIANYANG, CHINA 2007

A Rochester delegation including six students from Mercy and Harley Schools, the principal of Mercy and his international student coordinator, a teacher from Harley and a representative from Rochester Northwest Rotary experienced a very successful trip to Xianyang this spring.

We spent 4 days in Xianyang with students experiencing everyday Chinese life first hand by living with host families. The group met with Xianyang's deputy mayor. Xian-

yang's new mayor, Jiang Feng, is planning a trip to Rochester in late summer/early fall. Our group explored ideas about developing hospice care in China, sharing ideas and programs on recycling, possibilities about creating a Rotary Club in our sister city and an exchange for blind and visually impaired. We also visited a rural school outside of Xianyang and delivered more than 50 books to their library. The delegation also spent 3 days in Beijing renewing connections with the Beijing National Day School.

The committee is planning for a summer visit of almost 30 Chinese students to Nazareth College and the anticipated visit by Mayor Jiang Feng.

Submitted by Michael Coniff



ALYTUS, LITHUANIA 2009

(Continued from page 1, Dainava)

nian folk instruments. The ensemble's performances are based on Lithuanian folk culture, and since its founding, have been making Lithuania famous with its songs and dances around the world.

Dainava has performed throughout Europe, the United States, Canada, Japan, China, and many other countries. The Dainava Folk Art Ensemble has won many international awards in folk music and dance.

Representatives of several Alytus businesses and institutions accompanied the ensemble. They met with Rochester counterparts during the morning of Friday, May 13th. That afternoon the entire delegation visited Niagara Falls.

Submitted by Chet Pieniezny



Dainava Ensemble members lead Alytus delegation in the Lilac Festival Parade. Photo, Erin Marozas

(Continued from page 1) Exhibits

later, involvement in our organization. We have plans to provide more information to the Fairport community in the near future in the form of an illustrated presentation as part of their extensive community outreach and education events. Thank you, Margaret, for this opportunity to share with our community, and thank you to all who helped me gather items for the exhibit! *Martha J. O'Connor*

ISCOR joined the Rochester Public Library's celebration of its 100th anniversary in April. Martha O'Connor's sister cities photograph collection (included in the last issue of ISCOR News) was displayed link gallery between the Bausch & Lomb and Rundel Library buildings. Michael Leach gave a presentation on our sister cities program to a small, attentive audience on May 1st. *MDL*

(Continued from page 3) Würzburg

Executive Director of VisitRochester, will represent Mayor Thomas Richards at the 2011 Mozart Festival in Würzburg. They will join delegates from Würzburg's other sister cities for this major celebration. *MDL*

In Memoriam **Lemoyne Bearden and Fred Ingalls**

We are sad to note the passing of two prior chairmen of the committee: Lemoyne Bearden and Fred Ingalls. Lemoyne and Margaret Bearden were among the co-founders of the committee and led it in the early 1980s. They hosted several German students over the years. Fred and Jean Ingalls succeeded the Beardens in leading the committee. In recent years the Ingalls have been active in the Rochester International Council. The November issue of the RIC newsletter carries a touching memory of Fred: www.rifc.org *MDL*

(Continued from page 2, Conferences)



Martin Babinec, Upstate Venture Connect; Alma Candelaria, Dir., US Office of International Visitors; Josephine Perini

NYSAFLT Conference. On Saturday, March 12th, the Rennes committee hosted a panel discussion at the New York State Association of Foreign Language Teachers' regional conference at Nazareth College on educational exchanges. Candace Black, Jennifer Rybak, and Barb Kruger discussed the hows and whys of establishing ongoing exchange programs between Rennes and Rochester high schools and colleges. . We currently have seven such arrangements and we are looking for four more area high schools to be twinned with counterparts in Rennes. Peggy Lull discussed the exchanges of the Association for Teen Age Diplomats. Sports exchanges and Rotary International scholarships were also discussed. *Submitted by Ray Griswold*

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***NYS Sister Cities Conference,
9/24/11, Buffalo. See Website
www.nystatesistercities.com/***

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